

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SP-02 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 /078 W

-----251537Z 109674 /53

O R 251440Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4917

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, JM, US

SUBJECT: ANOTHER STORY ON US ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA

REFERENCE: -. KINGSTON 1855 B. KINGSTON 1821 C. KINGSTON 1820

1. DAILY GLEANER APRIL 22 CARRIED FOLLOWING REUTERS/CANA (DATELINED KINGSTON, APRIL 20) ON SECOND PAGE. QUOTE THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY HERE TODAY DENIED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE WELL ADVANCED FOR A LOAN OF MORE THAN \$200 MILLION TO JAMAICA.

THE JAMAICA DAILY NEWS, QUOTING INFORMED FINANCIAL SOURCES, SAID YESTERDAY THAT "AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED BY BOTH PARTIES AND THE CONDITIONS OF THE LOAN ARE NOW THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION".

JOHN DORRANCE, HEAD OF MISSION AT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY TOLD REUTER TODAY THAT ALTHOUGH THE UNITED
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STATES AND JAMAICA HAD AGREED TO HOLD TALKS ON ECONOMIC AID TO THE ISLAND, THESE TALKS WOULD NOT START UNTIL NEXT MONTH.

DORRANCE ADDED THAT THE FIGURE OF BETWEEN \$200 MILLION AND \$250 MILLION ADVANCED BY THE DAILY NEWS WAS ALSO "FAR TOO HIGH".

"NO ONE COUNTRY COULD MAKE THAT KIND OF LOAN", HE SAID.

THE NEWSPAPER, QUOTING UNOFFICIAL SOURCES, SAID A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE LOAN WOULD BE MADE IN MID-JUNE WHEN PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY WAS EXPECTED TO MEET PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, BUT DORRANCE SAID NO DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR A MEETING BETWEEN MANLEY AND CARTER, AND JUNE "SEEMED A LITTLE EARLY". UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL A, CHARGE AND PAO APRIL 19, COMMENTED TO REUTERS REGIONAL REPORTER, TERRY WILLIAMS, ON EARLIER DAILY NEWS REPORT OF FORTHCOMING MASSIVE USG LOAN ALONG LINES AGREED TO WITH DEPARTMENT (PARA 1, REFTEL A). WILLIAMS' STORY ABOVE IS A MIX OF FABRICATION AND DISTORTION OF BRIEF OFF THE RECORD COMMENT BY PAO AND CHARGE. WILLIAMS WAS TOLD THAT THE \$200-250 MILLION FIGURE IN THE DAILY NEWS STORY (REFTELS B AND C) APPEARED TO BE A POSSIBLE JAMAICAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE REQUIREMENT, AND NOT RPT NOT A POSSIBLE LEVEL OF ONE-YEAR ASSISTANCE FROM ANY ONE GOVERNMENT OR INSTITUTION. NOTHING WAS SAID EITHER ON OR OFF THE RECORD ABOUT THE TIMING OF A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PM MANLEY OTHER THAN THAT NO DATE HAD YET BEEN SET FOR A MEETING.

3. VARIATIONS OF THE ABOVE REUTERS STORY WERE CARRIED BY JBC RADIO AND TV NEWS EVENING APRIL 20 AND MORNING APRIL 21, BUT WERE REASONABLY CLOSE TO THE LANGUAGE CITED IN PARA ONE REFTEL A.

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4. BOTH PM'S OFFICE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY (PERMSEC FRANCIS) HAVE EXPRESSED SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING TO EMBASSY VIS-A-VIS THESE STORIES. PM MANLEY, IN MEETING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT APRIL 24, VOLUNTEERED TO CHARGE THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL EMBASSY DENIED DAILY NEWS STORY. "IT SAVED ME THE EMBARRASSMENT OF HAVING TO DO THAT". DORRANCE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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